Bill for old parents

68. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce a Bill to safeguard interests of the old parents; and

(b) if so, the manner in which old parents would be provided with the amenities of life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to formulate a Model Legislation for promoting the maintenance, care and protection of older persons after due consultation with the State Governments,

(b) The proposed Bill will address *inter alia* issues concerning care including financial, housing, clothing and companionship requirements from families and/or the State Governments in case of older persons living below the poverty line, protection of their life and property.

Exclusion of creamy layer form reservation benefits

69. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of avowed policy and commitment to build an equitable, human caring and just-India, Government have considered the necessity of exclusion of the "creamy layer" from the benefits of reservation policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to enforce the "creamy layer" clause under the policy of social justice; and

(c) the percentage of the "Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes that have been excluded from the benefit of Social Justice Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The concept of Creamy layer was introduced after the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Indira Sawhney and others *vs.* Union

of India and others and it exists only in case of Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The OBCs falling under the Creamy Layer have been excluded from the benefits of reservation policy of the Central Government. No such concept exists in case of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes. Statistics regarding percentage of OBCs excluded from the benefits of reservation because of application of Creamy Layer concept are not maintained.

Prematric Scholarships

70. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Government are bearing 100 per cent of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children to those engaged in unclean occupations like scavengers, flayers and tanners in Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details of the scholarships given during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the amount of scholarship to each student in different UTs;

(c) the number of scholarships proposed to be given during the year 2005-06 in different UTs and the criteria for selection; and

(d) how it is ensured that the scholarship is utilized for the purpose *i.e.* the beneficiaries actually pass out matriculation standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) 100 per cent central assistance over and above the committed liability is provided to the Union Territories under the scheme of Pre-Matric scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations.

(b) Under the scheme scholarship ranging from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 75/- per month for day scholars from class I to X and from Rs. 300/- to 375/- per month for hostellers from class III to X are provided. Besides, a lump sum annual grant of Rs. 550/- and Rs. 600/- is also given to day scholars and hostellers respectively.

A sum of Rs. 8.46 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh were released to Pondicherry Administration as scholarship to 1615 and 1780 students during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively. No Central assistance was released to other UTs during the aforesaid period.